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GENERALLY SPEAKING | CORPS TURNS 230



Brig. Gen. John M. Paxton Jr., depot commanding general, shares his thoughts on the 230th birthday of the Marine Corps during the depot cake cutting ceremony. Pvt. Charlie Chavez/Chevron

Reunite with families, friends this Thanksgiving holiday to celebrate freedom, nation

Thanksgiving is a time for the Marine Corps Recruit Depot and Western Recruiting Region family to pause and enjoy a day of rest, relaxation, and fellowship. As families and friends gather, Thanksgiving also provides an

opportunity to show our gratitude for the blessings we enjoy in a free and prosperous nation. Marines, Sailors, Coast Guardsmen and civilians of the Depot and Region, and all of your families can take pride in the fact that your service and sacrifices preserve the privilege of living and working in a free society characterized by the highest ideals of liberty.

Nearly half a century ago, President Dwight Eisenhower proclaimed Thanksgiving as a time when Americans should celebrate "the plentiful yield of our soil ... the beauty of our land ... the preservation of those ideals of liberty and justice that form the basis of our national life, and the hope of international peace." Now, in the midst of our resolute war on terrorism, President Eisenhower's hopeful words point us to our collective obligation to continue defending the enduring principles of freedom that form the foundation of our nation.

As the Thanksgiving season approaches, I offer my appreciation to you, the Marines, Sailors and civilians of the Depot and Region, who serve our nation with a level of devotion and selfless service unequalled in

any other profession. You recruit and train the future of our Marine Corps twenty-four hours a day, upholding those principles of freedom and our core values of honor, courage and commitment.

Thanksgiving is also a time for families to join in celebration and reunions. Families have long provided strength and values to the men and women of the Depot and Region. We are especially grateful to, and for, our family members who likewise dedicate themselves to lives of selfless sacrifice for country and Corps. Marine families are a seemingly inexhaustible source of support and of pride and inspiration. We are honored and humbled by the privilege of serving for and alongside them.

And so to all of you, the dedicated men and women of the Marine Corps Recruit Depot and Western Recruiting Region - uniformed and civilian - thank you for all you do and for the significant contributions each of you make in defending our constitution and our way of life. Please enjoy your celebrations with your friends and families and remember those who fight and stand ready far from home.

Happy Thanksgiving and Semper Fidelis!

Sincerely,

J.M. Paxton Jr.

J.M. Paxton Jr.
Brigadier General, U.S. Marine Corps

Depot drill instructor takes top honors in Corpwide board

BY LANCE CPL. DORIAN GARDNER
Chevron staff

Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Sgt. Maj. John L. Estrada, presented the annual drill instructor of the year award to Gunnery Sgt. Antonio Ceritelli at Marine Corps Air Facility, Quantico, Va., Nov. 1.

Every year, Parris Island and San Diego's top-performing drill instructors find their way to Headquarters Marine Corps for the final board where the drill instructor of the year will be selected. Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego has taken this award home for three consecutive years, according to Ceritelli.

Before he arrived in Quantico for his final review

board, Ceritelli went through two previous boards at regiment and battalion levels.

"We as a company recommended him for the regimental board," said 1st Sgt. Robert Eriksson, Company E first sergeant. "A lot of it had to do with his depot experience. If you have a drill instructor who only has three cycles under him, you are not going to nominate him."

Ceritelli had three years of experience on the drill field, including time spent with special training companies, according to Eriksson. "His performance and experience aboard the depot speak for themselves."

"I was honored to be nominated because I knew what high-caliber Marines I was competing against here on

SEE Instructor, pg. 2



Drill Instructor of the Year, Gunnery Sgt. Antonio Ceritelli, accepts his award from Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Sgt. Maj. John L. Estrada, at a joint awards ceremony in Quantico, Va., Nov. 1. Official USMC Photo



NOVEMBER:
American
Indian
Heritage



RECRUIT SPOTLIGHT

Mother's strife encourages son to pursue Marine Corps



Depot throwin' elbows

Coast Guard's presence felt at Commanding General's Cup Arm Wrestling Tournament

Instructor, from pg. 1 the drill field,” said Ceritelli. Drill instructors are required to spend their past year with a recruit training company and previously receive the drill instructor or senior drill instructor of the quarter award before they can be nominated on the battalion or regimental board.

“Each board was pretty much the same,” said Ceritelli. “I knew what to expect.”

According to Ceritelli, winning this award came as a complete surprise. “I didn’t know I was going to be accepting the award until 30 seconds before when I was promoted to gunnery sergeant.

It is tradition to promote the drill instructor of the year. After three years as a staff sergeant, Ceritelli came back to Company E with his award and new rank.

The most well-known challenge on the drill field is the long hours and the toll it takes on family, according to Ceritelli. “The long hours required and the hardship that occur in the family because of it make this job harder,” said Ceritelli.

Though hours and family struggle make the military occupational specialty more demanding than most, men like Ceritelli feel it is their duty to serve.

“Joining the Marine Corps, I didn’t have any long-term goals,” said Ceritelli. “I had no aspirations or focus in life. Once I became a Marine, I became focused on my career path. I guess I do this so that I would be able to help some of these recruits make the same changes. I owe it to the Marine Corps.”



MONKEYING AROUND
A recruit from Platoon 2130, Company E, crosses monkey bars during his company's run of the strength and endurance course here Nov. 8. The course is comprised of several different types of workout stations. Pvt. Charlie Chavez/Chevron

RP of the YEAR

Depot sailors take coveted award for service on land

LANCE CPL. KAITLYN M. SCARBORO
Chevron staff

Two depot religious program sailors won the title of RP of the Year of Marine Corps Shore Nov. 8.

Petty Officer 1st Class Denis J. Abeling and Petty Officer 3rd Class David Arietta were notified late Tuesday morning that they were the Senior and Junior Headquarters Marine Corps RP of the Year for Marine Corps Shore, respectively.

Both sailors work in the depot chaplain's office. Abeling, the senior enlisted advisor to the command chaplain, is being awarded for the second time. Arietta is the most junior sailor in the office and a first time recipient of the award.

“Petty Officer Arietta is a very competent, capable and committed member of the Navy Marine Corps Team. I am fortunate to have him on the religious ministry staff and take pride in knowing that such a deserving young man has been singled out among many highly competitive peers for this great honor,” said Capt. J. W. Poole, depot command chaplain.

“He could be an E-5 in less than a year and a half in the Navy. When he joined, he just hit the deck running,” said Abeling.

The board is divided into sailors who serve on shore and those who serve at sea. Broken down further, RP's who serve green-side work directly with Marines and those on blue-side work directly with sailors. The sailors stay in their respective junior and senior enlisted category, as well as their shore or sea category.

To be awarded, Arietta and Abeling first submitted a packet of their credentials to a review board that chooses the RP of the Year for Marine Forces Pacific.

The winners of the MarForPac RP of the year competed against Marine Forces Atlantic for Headquarters Marine Corps RP of the Year.

The winners of the Headquarters Marine Corps RP of the Year will compete on the Chief of Chaplains' board where the RP for the entire Navy will be decided.

Arietta is admittedly more physically active than most sailors, working out more than three times before lunchtime on some days. Arietta works closely with recruits and believes that all of the time and effort he spends with them had an influence on the choice to award him.

“I do everything with recruits; repelling, moto runs, hikes on my days off. I go out there with them, talk to them and try to make (recruit training) fun for them,” said Arietta.

Arietta's previous accomplishments include a Letter of Commendation for being Sailor of the Quarter for the depot in 2004, a Navy Achievement Medal for his collateral duty as supply officer for the depot chaplain's office and a tan belt in the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program.

Arietta is scheduled to leave in March for Chaplain and RP Expeditionary Skills Training.

“Personally, I didn't do anything; it was all God. I didn't do anything more than anybody else does,” said Arietta, a native of Phoenix.

BRIEFS

Blood

The Naval Medical Center San Diego Blood Donor Center will conduct a “Thanks-for-Giving” Blood Drive Nov. 22, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. outside McDougal Hall in conjunction with the Holiday Safety Stand Down.

Due to the cold and flu season, donations drop to critically low levels, according to the NMCSD Web site. The Blood Donor Center continues to send increased amounts of units in its weekly shipment of blood for the troops.

For more information, please contact Doreen Rekoski at (619) 532-6653.

Thanksgiving meal at Seu's

On Thanksgiving Day, the Jr. Seu restaurant will provide a free lunch for 25 individuals. The uniform will be proper civilian attire. The vans will be leaving the recreation center at 12:30 p.m. The event is open to anyone. For more information, contact Cpl. Kelley Bentley or Kelley Sitar on the global or at (619) 524-5655.

EFMP

Recently, Sgt. Devin Mitchell and his wife were in need of care for her extensive medical problems. His relocation from Okinawa to 29 Palms proved to be a problem until they found that they were eligible for assistance from the Exceptional Family Member Program, an effort that accommodates to service members and their family members who have special needs. For all Marines aboard the depot who believe they may need assistance, there is a point of contact aboard the depot to assist with your problems. To get more information, contact Jan King, EFMP coordinator, at (619) 524-6078.

Jay Leno taping

The Jay Leno show is scheduled to host an all-military audience Nov. 23 with spots reserved for the MCRD single Marines. Marines will sit in for the taping and enjoy a Thanksgiving dinner courtesy of NBC studio. The uniform of the day will be service deltas without nametags. A van will be leaving the recreation center at 12:30 p.m. with no estimated time of return. Names are needed no later than today. To reserve your seat in the audience, contact Kelley Sitar on the global or at (619) 524-5655.

Recycling reminder

Recycling efforts and dedication continues to be outstanding for MCRD. Trash tonnage going to the landfill has declined, while recycling tonnage has increased for Fiscal Year 2006. Thanks from the recycle center and remember these simple guidelines: Cardboard, paper, plastic, metal, and wood products are recyclable. Red recycle bins are available throughout the depot and at the recycle center. Green dumpsters are for trash only. Every bit of effort put into sorting and separating recyclables helps improve the efficiency of your program.

SEND BRIEFS TO scott.dunn@usmc.mil. The Chevron staff reserves the right to publish only those briefs that comply with Department of Defense regulations and the standards of the U.S. Government.



Petty Officer 3rd Class David Arietta is the Junior Religious Program Specialist of the Year for Headquarters Marine Corps. Serving just over a year and a half in the Navy, the award was a surprise for the junior sailor. Lance Cpl. Kaitlyn M. Scarboro/Chevron

“His uniform appearance is always number one, his haircut: number one, physical appearance: number one,” said Abeling. “If he keeps going in the direction he’s going, Arietta can expect to be the best RP in the Navy.”

“I do everything to my full potential, if not more,” said Arietta.

Arietta's packet is scheduled to be submitted to the Chief of Chaplains' board in early December.

The value of a good reputation; Okinawa chaplain explains importance, difficulty of maintaining one

BY NAVY CAPT. JIM PUTTLER
Contributing writer

Let me ask you a personal question: “Do you consider yourself to have a good or a bad reputation?” You may think this is a pretty dumb question, because most of us would think of ourselves as having a good reputation. Why would you want to have a bad one? Often we may find great disagreement with what others think of us.

Someone once said that people’s reputations are known either by direct experience or hearsay. Webster’s dictionary defines reputation as “overall quality or character as seen or judged by people in general” or “recognition by other people of some characteristic or ability.”

We can agree that good reputations

are particularly important. We have a tendency to trust those institutions, businessmen, leaders and professionals who have good reputations, and we avoid doing business with those who have shady or bad reputations.

For example, we would probably not turn over our life savings to a stockbroker, unless that person had a proven track record of successful investments. We might listen skeptically to a young or inexperienced stockbroker and invest little with that person until we were certain that any larger investment would be safe with him. We would most certainly not give that broker any of our cash if we had learned that others had lost investments with him.

Do you think that it is possible to change your opinion of someone once you have made up your mind about

their reputation? Do you remember the submarine captain, Cmdr. Scott Waddle of the USS Greenville? By all accounts, he was a very professional and competent commander. He was on the fast track to bigger and more responsible jobs. Then, one day, several civilians were aboard his sub for a special visit. The submarine executed a rapid ascent, stuck a Japanese training vessel, the Ehime Maru, killing nine students and sending the training vessel to the bottom of the sea.

The incident destroyed his naval career. He was relieved of command and lost his good reputation as a ship’s commander.

Reputations seem to be very fragile. They can change from good, decent and hard working to untrustworthy in a matter of seconds. Reputations seem to be difficult to earn. In some cases, it takes

a lifetime of good and faithful service to establish a reputation that others can trust.

Reputations allow us to build adequate networks of trust with one another so that we might build a decent society and culture. If I was able to see into the hearts and minds of those around me to see people’s real intentions, I would never be able to trust them. Likewise, I am sure you would react in a similar way to my inadequacies and sinful nature. Thank God for your good reputation! Protect that reputation as one of the most important possessions you have. Protect the reputations of others as well, because someday maybe you will need them to defend yours.

Puttler is the chaplain for III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Jarhead relates to feature film

BY SGT. ROBBIE A. BLOWERS
Contributing writer

“Welcome to The Suck.” This is the phrase I’ve repeatedly heard used to describe my right arm, my mother, my father, my heart, and the air that fills my lungs – my Marine Corps.

Now, wait. Before you stop reading and dismiss this as mindless ooh rah drivel, just bear with me for a few minutes.

I walk out of the movie theater a little tired, a little drained (it’s about 1 a.m., and my shift at Post Marshall’s Office started at about 4:45 the previous morning), but also with a hint of an adrenaline rush. I’ve just seen Sam Mendes’ “Jarhead”, a big-screen adaptation of former Marine scout sniper Anthony Swofford’s 2003 novel, and I’m still deciding whether I liked it or not.

As I’m walking, I look around and notice all of the people leaving the theater that have the same haircut as me. Not really the standard-issue high and tight, but that modest halfway-point between being a true devil dog and a lame attempt to nonchalantly blend into the civilian sector. Then I notice that they’re all looking at me the same way I’m looking at them.

Normally we’d pass by each other, see the haircut, the walk, and the look, and never think twice about it. But not right now. Right now we look at each other and suddenly we are on the same team again. We acknowledge each other with respect and we remember what it felt like when we graduated boot camp, back when we were all Marines instead of grunts, or MP’s, or admin guru’s or whatever. We remember that whole band of brothers idea, and, at least briefly, we don’t have to be ashamed to show that we’re proud of it in public.

I leave the mall and head home with my wife, still contemplating “Jarhead”. The movie is based on author Anthony Swofford’s experiences with the Surveillance and Target Acquisition Platoon during the Gulf War. The lead character, Swoff, played by a brilliantly intense Jake Gyllenhaal, briefly relives his seemingly unsatisfactory pre-boot camp lifestyle, and then walks us through each painstaking experience in becoming a jarhead. This includes a five-minute stint with his drill instructor Staff Sgt. Fitch, who is painfully reminiscent of R. Lee Erney’s infamous Gunnery Sgt. Hartman in “Full Metal Jacket”.

The audience is then introduced to Swoff’s shot spot-

ter, Cpl. Troy portrayed by Peter Sarsgaard, who helps to ease the suffering of Swoff’s transition into the fleet, as well as several other Marines who would become Swoff’s platoon mates. Sarsgaard delivers an emotionally gripping performance, and could very well be up for his first Academy Award nomination for best supporting actor, according to Michael A. Smith of Nolan’s Pop Culture Review.

The film goes on to cover Swoff’s induction into STA Platoon, his deployment to Saudi Arabia during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and all of the action, or should I say, lack of action, he encounters thereafter. All of this while under the supervision of a daunting Jamie Foxx, who plays Swoff’s seasoned platoon sergeant.

While the film is a visual masterpiece, with breathtaking images of Marines illuminated only by Kuwait’s burning oil fields, it’s premise is more than likely to be misunderstood due to the fact that it is seemingly a war movie without a war. Misunderstood by civilians, that is.

You see, I understand what hurry up and wait means. I understand what sitting in the desert in 120-degree heat, cleaning my weapon over and over again, not doing anything but hydrating, thinking about my girl back home, and planning what kind of food I’m going to eat when I get back can be like. I understand what it means to be in that Marine’s shoes.

Now I park my truck and walk into the house and head straight for the computer where I Google “jarhead reviews.” Instantly I’m bombarded with dozens of movie reviews from critics spanning the U.S.

Glenn Whipp from the Los Angeles Daily News says, “The film’s lack of meaning seems all the more egregious, particularly since even wartime inaction contains large doses of political consequence.”

A.O. Scott from the New York Times says, “Jarhead is a movie that walks up to some of the most urgent and painful issues of our present circumstance, clears it’s throat loudly and says nothing.”

Dozens more reviews pit the movie against “Braveheart” and cite its lack of action. More reviews call it boring and tedious – an “anti-war” film.

It is now that I realize why I love this movie. As I read bad review after bad review from dozens of journalists and columnists who are all well versed in cinematic do’s and don’ts, I realize that they are all civilians. They don’t understand that this movie was

never meant to compare or compete with “Platoon” and “Full Metal Jacket”.

I think back to when I was in the theater, sitting next to one of my fellow Marines, watching on the edge of my seat as Jake Gyllenhaal breathes deeply, exhales and clicks his weapon to fire. I relish the slow, steady squeeze of the trigger, the pop, the recoil, and the beauty of the tight shot group. One shot, one kill.

Now I think of my wife who sat next to me and watched the same images, but on a completely different level. She didn’t feel it the way I did. She didn’t understand the angst behind six lance corporals building a pyramid of sandbags in the rain, just to take them all down again and restack them. She didn’t get the joke when the communications went down and everybody’s gas mask was broken.

The fact of the matter is that “Jarhead” is a Marine’s Marine movie. If you’re expecting to see two hours of silver-star gallantry and non-stop action, go watch something else. But if you want to see what it’s really like to be a Marine, “Jarhead” hits the nail square on the head.

Sorry, recruit, Jody really did hook up with your girlfriend while you were at boot camp. Yes, staff sergeant, the radio really is dead and no, we don’t have a replacement battery. And no, I didn’t go to the desert and earn a Navy Cross for saving twelve Marines during 48 hours of continuous firefight, but I was ready to, and I’d do it if I had the chance.

Civilians can see this movie and appreciate it in they’re own right, or not. They can write all the good reviews or bad reviews they want, but the bottom line is that they’ll never truly understand this film for what it truly is.

We the few, we the proud, are the only ones who will see this movie and understand it. And whether the Marine is active, reserve, retired, or just did the fab-four and got out, he or she will be there. Whether we like it or not, the Marine Corps is and will always be our right arm, our mother, our father, our heart, and the air that fills our lungs. We will all forever be jarheads. And the Marines who are out there killing and dying in Iraq, or in Afghanistan, or in some other far corner of the world – they will always be us.

Ooh rah.

Blowers is a military policeman with the depot Provost Marshalls Office.



COMMANDING GENERAL
BRIG. GEN. JOHN M. PAXTON JR.

SERGEANT MAJOR
SGT. MAJ. FRANK E. PULLEY

PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIRECTOR
MAJ. JOSEPH D. KLOPPEL
joseph.kloppel@usmc.mil

PUBLIC AFFAIRS CHIEF
GUNNERY SGT. BARRY L. PAWELEK
barry.pawelek@usmc.mil

PRESS CHIEF
STAFF SGT. SCOTT DUNN
scott.dunn@usmc.mil

EDITOR
CPL. EDWARD R. GUEVARA JR.
edward.guevara@usmc.mil

COMBAT CORRESPONDENTS
LANCE CPL. DORIAN GARDNER
LANCE CPL. KAITLYN M. SCARBORO
PVT. CHARLIE CHAVEZ

WEBMASTER
DAVID HOFFMAN
david.hoffman@usmc.mil

CHEVRON/PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
1600 HENDERSON AVE. #120
SAN DIEGO, CA 92140
(619) 524-8727

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Company I drill instructors Sgt. Edward J. Madriz and Staff Sgt. Victor M. Moyado slowly march to the Marines' Hymn, bringing the cake to the front of the reviewing stand to be cut.



Pfc. Jason L. Silva, portraying a Marine of 1812, stands at parade rest as other Marines in the uniform showcase pass by at Shepherd Field Nov. 9.

Depot personnel celebrate 230 years of Marine Corps History

BY PVT. CHARLIE CHAVEZ
Chevron staff

Marines, sailors, recruits and civilians celebrated time-honored traditions and the Marine Corps' 230th birthday during the Marine Corps Recruit Depot Cake Cutting Ceremony on Shepherd Field Nov. 9.

The guest of honor Mr. J. Alvin Jorge was born in Dubuque, Iowa and enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1942. Jorge served in World War II and participated in the infamous battles of Iwo Jima and Guadalcanal.

The ceremony began with the traditional reading of John A. Lejeune's birthday message, written in 1921, and messages from the Commandant of the Marine Corps and the depot's Commanding General Brig. Gen. John M. Paxton Jr.

Next, Marines took the depot back in time with a uniform showcase that modeled the metamorphosis of uniforms through out the Corps' existence. While Marines walked Shepherd Field, music in coherence to the era whistled along as Staff Sgt. Scott Dunn, narrator, announced a brief description of the uniforms.

"It was a lot of fun. It wasn't uncomfortable or anything. It was more like a flashback that made you wonder and think about Marines from the past," said Lance Cpl. Junior A. Caba, who normally serves as a

post office clerk here but played the role of a Marine from the 1898 Spanish-American War.

Finishing the showcase, the birthday cake was carried out to the melodic sound of the Marines' Hymn. The oldest Marine present, Jorge, cut the first piece and handed it to Pfc. Donald Clouse Jr., the youngest Marine present, who was born March 2, 1988.

Brig. Gen. Paxton addressed the depot with a heart-filled message dedicated to the Corps and the people who have worn the cloth of our nation and acknowledged Jorge.

"The Marine Corps birthday is a time to reflect and reaffirm the legacy and prodigy of the Corps," said Brig. Gen. Paxton. "We have many Marines from many different wars who have worn the uniform of the Marine Corps present here and they have set a wonderful example for the recruits attending this ceremony to follow. The Corps must continue to provide America with our strong resolve and leading example," said Brig. Gen. Paxton.

After the speech, the cake was carried off in ceremonial fashion and Brig. Gen. Paxton dismissed the depot with his blessing to the depot and the nation.

Marines, sailors and guests finished the day with a special lunch of steak, shrimp and lobster served at Duncan Hall.



J. Alvin Jorge, the oldest Marine present, passes the first piece of cake to Pfc. Donald Clouse Jr., the youngest Marine present. The transfer symbolizes the passing of traditions and heritage to the next generation.



Regimental Chaplain Cmdr. Mike Mueller begins the ceremony with a prayer.



Recruits filled the bleachers at Shepherd Field, lining both sides of Shepherd Pavilion, for the cake-cutting ceremony Nov. 9. *Pvt. Charlie Chavez/Chevron photos*



Coast Guard Petty Officer 2nd Class Cory Yates clenches fists with Gunnery Sgt. Paul Agan, Recruit Training Regiment. Agan won and took first place. *Pvt. Charlie Chavez/Chevron photos*



Coast Guard Cmdr. Mark Ogle scowls as Sgt. Maj. Scott Mearkle, Recruit Training Regiment, pins his backhand.



Agan pulls down on the arm of Coast Guard Petty Officer 2nd Class Cory Yates, winning first place in the men's 150-175 lbs. weight class.



Coast Guard Petty Officer 3rd Class Marcy Stone clenches her teeth in a face off against Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Teresa Hass. Spectators cheered them on.

SLAM!

*Marines, Coasties
gather at field house
for arms competition*



BY PVT. CHARLIE CHAVEZ
Chevron staff

Marines and Coast Guardsmen filled the depot's Field House with bone-popping grunts and ear splitting whistles during the first Commanding General's Cup Arm Wrestling Tournament Tuesday.

With the Coast Guard making up the majority of the 42 participants, the Marine representation was minimal.

Some of the competitors were upset that a more diverse group of services didn't come out to give more of a challenge.

"Our girls were really strong in this competition," said Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Gina Strickland. "I was really looking forward to getting a challenge

from some of the girls in the Marine Corps though."

Strickland took first place in the women's 131 lbs. and over competition, beating Coast Guard Petty Officer 2nd Class Marcia Stone.

In the men's 150-175 lbs. competition, Gunnery Sgt. Paul Agan, Recruit Training Regiment, beat Coast Guard Petty Officer 2nd Class Cory Yates in what proved to be a long and strenuous match.

"It feels pretty good to have won," said Agan. "Maybe more people could have come out. It would have been more fun, especially since the entire Coast Guard is here."

In the competition for the men's 176-200 lbs., Coast Guard Petty Officer 3rd Class Josh Field beat Gunnery Sgt. Carnell Martin, RTR, in a quick slam.

The men's 201-220 lbs. competition ended with

Coast Guard Petty Officer 3rd Class Mike Kingsbury, Coast Guard team, finishing off Coast Guard Petty Officer 3rd Class Troy Fuller, Coast Guard team, after a short match.

After a much anticipated match, Headquarters and Service Battalion's Cpl. Matt Broese beat Coast Guard Petty Officer 3rd Class Anthony Vottero in the final men's weight class 221 lbs. and over.

"I really liked the tournament," said Broese. "It was really cool, but we need more participation."

Finishing out the men's 40 years and older master's competition, 1st Sgt. Andrew Bahney, RTR, and rivaled friend Sgt. Maj. Scott Mearkle, RTR, set off in a strenuous finish for the master's class.

The next scheduled CG's Cup event is the Turkey Trot fun run today.